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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Klaus BIESTER **GROUP ART UNIT:** APPLICANT:

Not Yet Assigned SERIAL NO.: Not Yet Assigned

§ § § **EXAMINER:**

FILED: Concurrently Herewith Not Yet Assigned

FOR: Connecting Mechanism

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Atty. Dkt. No.: 1600-11900 Clt. Ref. No.: OTE-030477 US

Date: February 24, 2005

Mail Stop PCT Commissioner for Patents P. O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 Attn: DO/EO/US

Sir:

This paper is filed concurrently with the National Phase Entry patent application. Prior to calculating the fees and examining this case, the Examiner is requested to enter the following amendments and consider the accompanying remarks:

Amendments to the Specification: are reflected on page 2 of this paper.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 3 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 8 of this paper.

An Appendix following page 8 contains a marked-up and clean substitute specification.